EPI Update for Friday, February 24, 2012 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Influenza update
- Blood lead test reporting reminder
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Influenza update

Influenza activity in Iowa is increasing, especially in Region 3 (Northwest) and Region 6 (Central East). Because of the increase in flu activity, the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network (IISN) weekly report has been expanded to include regional activity. In addition, the IDPH influenza website has been updated to include influenza outbreak control and reporting guidelines for long-term care facilities. For the guidelines, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluLongTermCare. To view the IISN weekly flu report, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

Blood lead test reporting reminder

Does your office, clinic, or laboratory perform blood lead tests? Are you using a Lead Care II instrument? If so, you need to report those results to the Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention.

Under Iowa Administrative Code [641] Chapter 1, <u>all</u> blood lead test results (child or adult) are required to be reported to IDPH. These reports are required to include specific information, including the patient's name, date of birth, gender, address, race and ethnicity, telephone number, the name and address of the testing laboratory, the collection date of the specimen, whether the specimen was capillary or venous, and the name of the ordering health care provider (phone optional but appreciated). For work-related lead testing, the name of the patient's employer is also required. Both medical providers and laboratories are required to report (medical providers can defer to the laboratory reporting if complete information is received).

The Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention can work with you to assist you in complying with reporting requirements, including how to report electronically. For more information on reporting lead tests or to confirm that your test reports are being received, contact Janet Lemmermann at 800-972-2026 or janet.lemmermann@idph.iowa.gov.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Training for new sanitarians will be held on May 15-17 and will cover food programs, laboratory and field experiences. For more information, contact Debbi Cooper at 515-242-6337.

Have a healthy and happy (and a bit snowy) week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology Iowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736